

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CAPE T 00088 231758Z

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----109513 231801Z /50

O 231739Z JAN 78

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6621

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

USMISSION SUUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L C A P E T O W N 0088

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV, WA, SF, UN, US

SUBJ: NAMIBIA - PRESS REPORTS ON FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING

REF: STATE 017283, USUN 192

1. IN MEETINGS AMONG THE FIVE AMBASSDORS YESTERDAY  
AND TODAY I HAVE DEPLORED THE LEAKS TO THE PRESS ABOUT  
EFFORTS TO SET UP PROXIMITY TALKS. THE FRENCH SEEM  
TO BE THE BIGGEST PROBLEM SINCE THEY ARE CITED SO FREQUENTLY  
AS SOURCE OF INFORMATION. GERMANS ALSO FIND IT HARD  
TO SAY "NO COMMENT." WE ARE RELIABLY TOLD PIK BOTHА  
IS FEEDING INFORMATION TO REPORTERS AND ASKING THEM  
TO COME TO US TO OBTAIN CONFIRMATION. FRENCH  
AMBASSADOR WHO IS HARD OF HEARING AND HAS DIFFICULTY  
WITH LANGUAGE IS PARTICULARLY VULNERABLE TO THESE  
APPROACHES.

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2. WHEN THE FIVE AMBASSADORS MET WITH BOTHА AND  
FOURIE YESTERDAY WE ARRANGED IN ADVANCE FOR GERMAN  
TO MAKE POINT ON CONFIDENTIALITY CONTAINED PARA 7  
OF USUN 0187. THE REST OF US SUPPORTED HIS  
ADMONITION. AGAIN TODAY WE STRESSED WITH FOURIE  
THE NEED TO KEEP THE WRAPS ON THE NEW YORK TALKS

UNTIL ANNOUNCED.

3. I AM NOT SURE THAT THIS IS GOING TO STEM THE TIDE OF STORIES ALTHOUGH I BELIEVE THE FIVE HERE WILL STOP TALKING TO THE PRESS. WE WILL PLACE SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON CONFIDENTIALITY WHEN OUR PROPOSALS ARE PRESENTED TO THE SOUTH AFRICANS.

4. IN THE MEANTIME THERE IS A MALICIOUS CAMPAIGN GOING ON IN THE PRESS HERE AGAINST DON MCHENRY. THE ONLY QUARTER FROM WHICH THIS COULD BE COMING IS DFA. BOTHA HAS BEEN PARTICULARLY CRITICAL ACCORDING TO OUR CONTACTS SINCE THE ANTHONY LEWIS PIECE ON NAMIBIA ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO. BOTHA APPARENTLY HAS TAKEN THIS ARTICLE AS A PERSONAL ATTEMPT TO DISCREDIT HIM AND BLAMES MCHENRY.

BOWDLER

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MEETING REPORTS, FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETINGS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 23 jan 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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